

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

SENATE BILL 1478

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-189.03, 15-701.01 AND 15-702, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO TRANSFER CREDITS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-189.03, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-189.03. Academic credits; transfer

5 A. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school OR
6 SCHOOL DISTRICT enrolls in a public CHARTER school in this state, the public
7 CHARTER school shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or
8 instructional programs at the charter school ~~in a uniform and consistent~~
9 ~~manner and according to the same criteria that are used to accept academic~~
10 ~~credits from other public schools~~ OR SCHOOL DISTRICT. A CHARTER SCHOOL
11 GOVERNING BOARD MAY ADOPT A POLICY CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF TRANSFER
12 CREDITS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER A CREDIT EARNED BY A PUPIL WHO
13 WAS PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL WILL BE
14 ASSIGNED AS AN ELECTIVE OR CORE CREDIT.

15 B. A PUPIL WHO TRANSFERS FROM A CHARTER SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT
16 SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH A LIST THAT INDICATES WHICH CREDITS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED
17 AS AN ELECTIVE CREDIT AND WHICH CREDITS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AS A CORE CREDIT
18 BY THE CHARTER SCHOOL. WITHIN TEN SCHOOL DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE LIST, A
19 PUPIL MAY REQUEST TO TAKE AN EXAMINATION IN EACH PARTICULAR COURSE IN WHICH
20 CORE CREDIT HAS BEEN DENIED. THE CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL ACCEPT THE CREDIT AS A
21 CORE CREDIT FOR EACH PARTICULAR COURSE IN WHICH THE PUPIL TAKES AN
22 EXAMINATION AND RECEIVES A PASSING SCORE ON A TEST DESIGNED AND EVALUATED BY
23 A TEACHER IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL WHO TEACHES THE SUBJECT MATTER ON WHICH THE
24 EXAMINATION IS BASED.

25 Sec. 2. Section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
26 read:

27 15-701.01. High school; graduation; requirements; community
28 college or university courses; transfer from
29 private schools; academic credit

30 A. The state board of education shall:

31 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in section 15-101
32 and incorporating the academic standards adopted by the state board of
33 education, for the graduation of pupils from high school.

34 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from
35 high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of
36 reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.

37 3. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741 for
38 the graduation of pupils from high school in at least the areas of reading,
39 writing and mathematics and shall establish passing scores for each such
40 test. ~~A pupil not successfully passing the required competency test shall~~
41 ~~graduate from high school with a recognized diploma if the pupil meets the~~
42 ~~alternative graduation requirements established by section 15-701.02.~~ A
43 pupil shall not be required to pass the competency test required in this
44 paragraph to graduate from high school if the pupil transfers into the
45 district from out-of-state and has successfully passed a statewide assessment

1 test on state adopted standards that are substantially equivalent to the
2 state board adopted academic standards.

3 ~~B.~~ B. If the state board of education adopts a competency test as a
4 graduation requirement for a child with a disability as defined in section
5 15-761 or a child who receives special education pursuant to section 15-763,
6 pupils with individualized education programs shall not be required to
7 achieve passing scores on competency tests in order to graduate from high
8 school unless the pupil is learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's
9 grade level in a specific academic area and unless passing scores on a
10 competency test ~~is~~ ARE specifically required in a specific academic area by
11 the pupil's individualized education program as mutually agreed on by the
12 pupil's parents and the pupil's individualized education program team or the
13 pupil, if the pupil is at least eighteen years of age. These competency
14 tests shall be administered to pupils in a manner prescribed in the pupil's
15 individualized education program and school districts and charter schools
16 shall make specific and appropriate accommodations for pupils with
17 individualized education programs. Pupils with section 504 plans as defined
18 in section 15-731 shall not be required to achieve passing scores on
19 competency tests in order to graduate from high school unless the pupil is
20 learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's grade level in a specific
21 academic area and unless passing scores on a competency test ~~is~~ ARE
22 specifically required in a specific academic area by the pupil's section 504
23 plan that is developed in consultation with the pupil's parents. These
24 competency tests shall be administered to pupils in a manner prescribed in
25 the pupil's section 504 plan and school districts and charter schools shall
26 make specific and appropriate accommodations for pupils with a section 504
27 plan. A pupil with an individualized education program or a section 504 plan
28 who graduates from high school but who is not required to achieve a passing
29 score on a competency test in order to graduate from high school shall
30 receive the standard diploma issued by the school district or charter school.

31 ~~B.~~ C. The governing board of a school district shall:

32 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the
33 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.

34 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
35 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include accomplishment
36 of the academic standards in at least reading, writing, mathematics, science
37 and social studies, as determined by district assessment. Other criteria may
38 include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance.

39 ~~C.~~ D. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
40 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school which
41 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency
42 requirements which the state board prescribes.

43 ~~D.~~ E. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for
44 the passage of pupils in courses which are required for graduation from high
45 school.

1 ~~E.~~ F. A teacher shall determine whether to pass or fail a pupil in a
2 course in high school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 3 on the basis
3 of the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed. The governing
4 board, if it reviews the decision of a teacher to pass or fail a pupil in a
5 course in high school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base
6 its decision on the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed.

7 ~~F.~~ G. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may
8 be met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects at
9 a community college or university, if the course is at a higher level than
10 the course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the course
11 is not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal to or
12 higher than the level of a high school course. The governing board shall
13 determine if the subject matter of the community college or university course
14 is appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil intends it to fulfill
15 and if the level of the community college or university course is less than,
16 equal to or higher than a high school course, and the governing board shall
17 award one-half of a carnegie unit for each three semester hours of credit the
18 pupil earns in an appropriate community college or university course. If a
19 pupil is not satisfied with the decision of the governing board regarding the
20 amount of credit granted or the subjects for which credit is granted, the
21 pupil may request that the state board of education review the decision of
22 the governing board, and the state board shall make the final determination
23 of the amount of credit to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The
24 governing board shall not limit the number of credits that is required for
25 high school graduation and that may be met by taking community college or
26 university courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

27 1. "Community college" means an educational institution that is
28 operated by a community college district as defined in section 15-1401 or a
29 postsecondary educational institution under the jurisdiction of an Indian
30 tribe recognized by the United States department of the interior.

31 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
32 Arizona board of regents.

33 ~~G.~~ H. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided
34 with a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied
35 by the school district. A pupil may request to take an examination in each
36 particular course in which credit has been denied. The school district shall
37 accept the credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an
38 examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by
39 a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the
40 examination is based. In addition to the above requirements, the governing
41 board of a school district may prescribe requirements for the acceptance of
42 the credits of pupils who transfer from a private school.

43 I. IF A PUPIL WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN A CHARTER SCHOOL OR
44 SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLS IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE, THE SCHOOL
45 DISTRICT SHALL ACCEPT CREDITS EARNED BY THE PUPIL IN COURSES OR INSTRUCTIONAL

1 PROGRAMS AT THE CHARTER SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE GOVERNING BOARD OF A
2 SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ADOPT A POLICY CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF TRANSFER
3 CREDITS FOR THE PURPOSE OF WHETHER A CREDIT EARNED BY A PUPIL WHO WAS
4 PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL WILL BE ASSIGNED
5 AS AN ELECTIVE OR CORE CREDIT.

6 J. A PUPIL WHO TRANSFERS FROM A CHARTER SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT
7 SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH A LIST THAT INDICATES WHICH CREDITS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED
8 AS AN ELECTIVE CREDIT AND WHICH CREDITS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AS A CORE CREDIT
9 BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. WITHIN TEN SCHOOL DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE LIST, A
10 PUPIL MAY REQUEST TO TAKE AN EXAMINATION IN EACH PARTICULAR COURSE IN WHICH
11 CORE CREDIT HAS BEEN DENIED. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ACCEPT THE CREDIT AS
12 A CORE CREDIT FOR EACH PARTICULAR COURSE IN WHICH THE PUPIL TAKES AN
13 EXAMINATION AND RECEIVES A PASSING SCORE ON A TEST DESIGNED AND EVALUATED BY
14 A TEACHER IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHO TEACHES THE SUBJECT MATTER ON WHICH THE
15 EXAMINATION IS BASED.

16 ~~H.~~ K. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow high
17 school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic course
18 or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject without
19 enrolling in the course or subject.

20 Sec. 3. Section 15-702, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

21 15-702. High school equivalency diploma; fees; rules

22 A. Any person who is sixteen years of age or older and who passes a
23 general educational development test shall be awarded an Arizona high school
24 equivalency diploma by the state board of education and the state
25 superintendent of public instruction. The state board of education may
26 establish eligibility requirements for persons wishing to take a general
27 educational development test, except that the minimum age required to take
28 the test may not be older than sixteen nor shall the board require the
29 completion of any high school credits.

30 B. A person who meets the minimum course of study and competency
31 requirements prescribed by the state board of education for graduation from
32 high school through a combination of high school credits and community
33 college and university credits, which are converted to high school credits in
34 the same manner as provided in section 15-701.01, subsection ~~F~~ G by the
35 governing board or the state board of education, shall be awarded an Arizona
36 high school equivalency diploma.

37 C. The state board of education may establish and collect fees for the
38 issuance and reissuance of the following:

- 39 1. A general equivalency diploma.
- 40 2. A general equivalency transcript.

41 D. The state board of education shall develop rules for fee waivers
42 for the general equivalency diploma and general equivalency transcripts.